

[Ostrander House]

#19 no 19-I

AUG 22 1938

FIELD NOTES

Taken on Interviews

(Information given by a local architect)

OSTRANDER HOUSE

"A Mr. Tuttle was the contractor who built the Ostrander house. It was very unusual for those days.

"I was building the courthouse at Paint Rock at that time and happened to go out by the Ostrander house. It was new - hardly finished. It was far ahead of anything that had ever been built in this section. The stones were native material but the lumber was brought in from somewhere else.

"I was full of curiosity and persuaded Mrs. Ostrander to take me through the house, as I was an architect. When we ascended the stairs, there was a break - the stairway stopped, but there was a room still higher; it would not take an architect to discover the break. Some say the uppermost room was to be used as a look-out tower, or that a dome was to have been constructed; others relate different stories - who knows? [C-12 Tex?]

"Mrs. Ostrander and I went down the stairway, she explaining in detail each piece of art. When we were down I told her that I would like to see the kitchen I had heard so much about. She said, 'No, my cook is in there.' I told her that I would not hurt the cook. She

Library of Congress

hesitated, but 2 finally led me into the kitchen. It was a wonderful piece of art, [cabinete?], water secured from a cistern by means of a hand-pump which was built onto the kitchen sink. The cook - a good-looking lad with black, curly hair, (now a prominent ranchman of West Texas, J. C. Landon), who came with the Ostrandens from Syracuse, New York.

"I visited in the home several times, but I was more interested in a German boy who worked there, so I can not say how much is true of the stories that are told concerning the Ostrandens. Anyway, they left hurriedly, leaving the piano standing open. It was not touched for years, and the house was not occupied for years afterward."